

Message Text

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12

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 260626Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1241

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 6832

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJ: ASIAN SEAT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: ISLAMABAD 5676

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR FOLLOWING HIS OWN RETURN FROM ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (UNITED NATIONS, ACTING) MUNIR AKRAM TOOK OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF PAK PROSPECTS FOR WINNING ASIAN UNSC SEAT. GOP'S STRATEGY, HE SAID, WAS TO TAKE A LEAD IN THE FIRST BALLOT, THEN GO ON TO WIN IN SUBSEQUENT VOTING. HE TENTATIVELY ESTIMATED THAT PAKS WOULD RECEIVE SOME 70 VOTES (OF THE APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED NEEDED TO WIN) ON THE FIRST BALLOT, PUTTING IT AHEAD OF BOTH INDIA AND PHILIPPINES.

END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

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2. AKRAM SAID PAKS WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH

PROGRESS THEY HAD MADE IN PUSHING THEIR CANDIDACY AT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, WHICH HAD ADOPTED GOP-ENGINEERED PACKAGE PROPOSAL ENDORSING SPECIFIC MUSLIM COUNTRY CANDIDACIES FOR INTERNATIONAL BODIES. HE REPORTED THAT NINE OF THE THIRTY-NINE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES HAD EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ON THE PAK BID, MOSTLY ON GROUNDS OF THE EARLIER ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DECISION TO FAVOR INDIAN CANDIDACY. THE GOP EXPECTS THAT SOME OF THOSE WHO EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS WILL NONETHELESS VOTE FOR PAKISTAN AND COUNTS AS LOST TO PAKISTAN ON THE FIRST BALLOT ONLY IRAQ, SUDAN, EGYPT, AND BANGLADESH (TO INDIA) AND INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA (TO PHILIPPINES). (ADDITIONALLY, THE PAKS DO NOT COUNT ON AFGHANISTAN'S SUPPORT, THOUGH THEY WERE GRATIFIED BY SILENCE MAINTAINED BY GOA REP DURING DISCUSSION OF UNSC ISSUE).

3. AKRAM SAID GOP PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO SYRIA FOR STATING DURING DEBATE THAT IT DID NOT FEEL BOUND BY THE DECISION OF THE ARAB LEAGUE TO SUPPORT INDIA AS (ACCORDING TO THE SYRIANS) NO COMMITMENT HAD BEEN MADE BY THE LEAGUE IN REGARD TO NON-ARAB CANDIDACIES. THE SYRIANS MAINTAINED THAT THE LEAGUE COUNCIL HAD MERELY DECIDED TO REFER THE CANDIDACIES TO THE PERMANENT REPS IN NEW YORK. HE SAID THAT SYRIA HAD ASSURED PAK REPS OF ITS SUPPORT.

4. AKRAM ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH STRONG SUPPORT PAK CANDIDACY HAD RECEIVED FROM SMALLER AFRICAN MUSLIM COUNTRIES. HE SAID GOP WAS HOPEFUL THAT THIS WOULD SPILL OVER INTO MORE GENERAL AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR THE PAK BID. PAKS HAVE SENT ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY NAIK ON FROM JIDDA TO OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA IN EFFORT TO BUILD ON THEIR ISLMIC CONFERENCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

5. AKRAM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PAKS WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH RIVAL INDIAN CANDIDACY THAN WITH PHILIPPINES' BID. HE WAS AWARE, OF COURSE, OF STRONG GOI CAMPAIGN (WHICH HAS INCLUDED DISPATCH OF SPECIAL ENVOYS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JIDDA TO CANVASS FOR SUPPORT AMONG MUSLIM FOREIGN MINISTERS) AND EXPRESSED SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT WHAT HE EXPECTED WOULD BE HARD INDIAN DRIVE AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. HE RULED OUT PHILIPPINES' SUCCESS WITH ARGUMENT THAT FILIPINOS COULD NOT LAND EITHER MUSLIM GROUP (EXCEPT FOR ASEAN PARTNERS) OR SOVIET BLOC.

6. AKRAM DID NOT ENQUIRE ABOUT LATEST US POSITION.

HE ESTIMATED THAT INDIAN EVENTS WOULD HURT GOI BID
AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES, BUT THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE
SOMEWHAT COUNTERBALANCED IN THIRD WORLD, SOME OF WHOSE
MEMBERS WOULD RECOGNIZE IN MRS. GANDHI'S PROBLEMS AND
REACTIONS A REFLECTION OF THEIR OWN SITUATIONS. HE
ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT AT THIS POINT PAKS HAD NO SOLID
EVIDENCE FOR EITHER CONJECTURE. HE NOTED THAT PRC
HAD ASSURED PAKS OF THEIR FULL SUPPORT.

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